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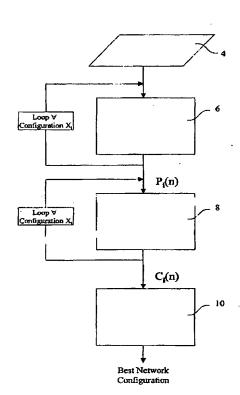
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(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR DESIGNING A DATA NETWORK



(57) Abstract: A method of designing a transport network having a plurality of network elements and a plurality of connections between said network elements, comprises: (a) defining (4) a first network configuration and at least one alternative network configuration for the same transport network; (b) calculating (6), for each network configuration, a probability function $(P_1(n))$ representing, for each maximum number (n) of routable flows, the probability of routing such a number (n) of flows in the network configuration currently considered; (c) calculating (8), for each network configuration, a unit-cost-per-flow function $(C_1(n))$ calculated as the ratio between a sum of the costs relative to the network elements of the network configuration currently considered and the probability function $(P_1(n))$; (d) comparing (10) the unit-cost-per-flow functions $(C_1(n))$ of the network configurations considered, for choosing a network configuration having a lowest unit-cost-per-flow value.

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